

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method of forming a coating on a powdered substrate, which method comprises introducing at least one of an atomized liquid and solid coating forming material and separately transporting a powdered substrate to be coated into at least one of an atmospheric plasma discharge and an ionised gas stream resulting therefrom, and exposing the powdered substrate to the at least one of atomized liquid and solid coating forming material, wherein the powdered substrate is transported by being carried on a reel to reel web support.

Claims 2-4. (Cancelled).

5. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the reel to reel web support is made from a non-woven fabric.
6. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the reel to reel web support for the powdered substrate comprises two layers of a non-woven fabric material between which, in use, the powdered substrate is sandwiched.
7. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein at least one of the atomized liquid and solid coating forming material is introduced into at least one of an atmospheric plasma discharge and an ionized gas stream resulting therefrom by direct injection.

8. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the powdered substrate to be coated is selected from at least one of metals, metal oxides, silica and silicates, carbon, polymeric powdered substrates, dyestuffs, fragrances, flavouring powdered substrates, pharmaceutical powdered substrates and biologically active powdered compounds.
9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for forming a coating on a powdered substrate, the apparatus comprising a means for generating an atmospheric pressure plasma discharge (20) within which, in use, the powdered substrate to be coated is introduced, an atomiser (74) for providing at least one of an atomized liquid or solid coating forming material within the plasma discharge and means (68, 70, 71, 72) for separately introducing and or transporting the powdered substrate into at least one of the atmospheric pressure plasma discharge (25, 60) and an ionized gas stream resulting therefrom such that the powdered substrate is exposed to the atomized liquid or solid coating forming material.
10. (Previously Presented) An apparatus in accordance with claim 9 wherein the atmospheric plasma is generated between spaced apart parallel electrodes which are either flat, parallel or concentric parallel electrodes.
11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus in accordance with claim 10 comprising a first and second pair of vertically or horizontally arrayed, parallel spaced-apart planar electrodes (21, 22, 23, 24) with at least one dielectric plate (27) between the first pair (21, 22), adjacent one electrode and at least one dielectric plate (27) between the second pair (23,

24) adjacent one electrode, the spacing between the dielectric plate (27) and the other dielectric plate or electrode of each of the first and second pairs of electrodes forming a first and second plasma region (25, 60)[[0]], which apparatus also comprises a means of transporting a powdered substrate successively through the first and second plasma regions (68, 70, 71, 72).

12. (Previously Presented) An apparatus in accordance with claim 11 wherein the electrodes (21, 22, 23, 24) are vertically arrayed and the means of transporting the powdered substrate through the first and second plasma regions is by way of a reel to reel web support (68, 70, 71, 72).
13. (Previously Presented) An apparatus in accordance with claim 11 wherein each electrode (21, 22, 23, 24) is in the form of a watertight box having a side formed by a dielectric plate (27) having bonded thereto on the interior of the box a planar electrode (26) together with a liquid inlet (28) adapted to spray water or an aqueous solution onto the face of the planar electrode (26).
14. (Previously Presented) A coated powdered substrate prepared in accordance with the method claim 1.

Claims 15-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) An apparatus in accordance with claim 9 wherein the means (68, 70, 71, 72) of transporting the powdered substrate through the first and second plasma regions is by way dropping the powdered substrate under gravity or entrained in a carrier gas.
21. (Previously Presented) An apparatus in accordance with claim 9 wherein the means (68, 70, 71, 72) of transporting the powdered substrate through the first and second plasma regions is by way of a support (68).
22. (Previously Presented) An apparatus in accordance with claim 9 wherein the support (68) is selected from a fluidised bed, a reel to reel web support, a conveyor belt or a vibrating conveyor.
23. (Previously Presented) An apparatus in accordance with claim 22 wherein the support (68) is the reel to reel web support, and the reel to reel web support is made from a non-woven fabric.
24. (Previously Presented) An apparatus in accordance with claim 22 wherein the support (68) is the reel to reel web support, and the reel to reel web support comprises two layers of a non-woven fabric material between which, in use, the powdered substrate is sandwiched.
25. (Previously Presented) A method of forming a coating on a powdered substrate, which method comprises introducing, by direct injection, at least one of an atomized liquid and

solid coating forming material into at least one of an atmospheric plasma discharge and an ionised gas stream resulting therefrom, and separately transporting a powdered substrate to be coated into at least one of the atmospheric plasma discharge and the ionised gas stream resulting therefrom, and exposing the powdered substrate to the at least one of atomized liquid and solid coating forming material, wherein the powdered substrate is transported by being carried on a reel to reel web support made from a non-woven fabric.

26. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 25 wherein the powdered substrate is transported through at least one of an atmospheric plasma discharge and an ionized gas stream resulting therefrom by being dropped under gravity or entrained in a carrier gas.

Claims 27-30. (Cancelled).

31. (Previously Presented) A coated powdered substrate prepared in accordance with the method claim 25.

32. (Previously Presented) A method of forming a coating on a powdered substrate, which method comprises introducing, by direct injection, at least one of an atomized liquid and solid coating forming material into at least one of an atmospheric plasma discharge and an ionised gas stream resulting therefrom, and separately transporting a powdered substrate to be coated into at least one of the atmospheric plasma discharge and the ionised gas stream resulting therefrom, and exposing the powdered substrate to the at least one of atomized liquid and solid coating forming material, wherein the powdered substrate is transported by being carried on a reel to reel web support comprising two layers of a non-woven fabric material between which, in use, the powdered substrate is sandwiched.
33. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 32 wherein the powdered substrate is transported through at least one of an atmospheric plasma discharge and an ionized gas stream resulting therefrom by being dropped under gravity or entrained in a carrier gas.
34. (Previously Presented) A coated powdered substrate prepared in accordance with the method claim 32.